

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 118908 TOSEC 010171

FOL REPEAT OF NEW DELHI 6734 TO SECSTATE INFO DACCA ISLAMABAD
KABUL KATHMANDU LONDON BOMBAY CALCUTTA HONG KONG MADRAS MAY 20

QTE:

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 06734

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, IN, PK

SUBJ: INDO-PAK TALKS END WITHOUT MUCH PROGRESS

SUMMARY: PAKISTANI FOREIGN SECRETARY AGHA SHAHI LEFT
DELHI EARLY MAY 20 WITHOUT HAVING ACHIEVED A "BREAK-
THROUGH" IN THE NEGOTIATIONS ON RESUMPTION OF OVERFLIGHTS
AND CIVIL AIR SERVICES. THE TWO SIDES SPENT FIVE DAYS
DISCUSSING THIS AND OTHER ASPECTS OF THE BILATERAL RELATION-
SHIP -- THE FIRST SUCH GENERAL, HIGH-LEVEL EXCHANGE
IN EIGHT MONTHS. WE HAVEN'T TALKED TO GOI OFFICIALS YET.
WHILE NEITHER SIDE WAS READY FOR AN AGREEMENT,
CONCEIVABLY THE EXCHANGES THEMSELVES MAY HAVE BEEN
USEFUL. END SUMMARY.

1. THE MAY 15-20 INDIA-PAKISTAN NEGOTIATIONS ON RESUMPTION
OF CIVIL AIR SERVICES, OVERFLIGHTS AND OTHER SUBJECTS
ENDED INCONCLUSIVELY WITH THE PAKISTANIS SAYING THAT
COMMUNICATIONS, WITH ISLAMABAD WERE BAD AND THE DELEGATION
HAD TO GO HOME. THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE (SEPTTEL) RECORDS
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THE FAILURE TO ACHIEVE AGREEMENT ON THE CIVIL AVIATION

SUBJECTS. IT IS SLIGHTLY MORE POSITIVE ON THE DISCUSSION OF THE ISSUE OF THE DAM INDIA IS BUILDING ON THE CHENAB RIVER BEFORE IT FLOWS INTO PAKISTAN. THERE WAS ALSO DISCUSSION OF IMPLEMENTATION OF EARLIER AGREEMENTS (E.G. ON TRAVEL, BUT NOT RAIL LINKS), OF PROPAGANDA, AND BROADER QUESTIONS OF INDO-PAK RELATIONSHIPS.

2. CIVIL AVIATION: THE STICKING POINT CONTINUED TO BE THE INDIAN INSISTANCE THAT PAKISTAN WITHDRAW ITS COMPLAINT TO ICAO ABOUT THE INDIAN BAN ON PAKISTANI OVERFLIGHTS, IMPOSED IN 1971 AFTER THE HIJACKING AND DESTRUCTION IN PAKISTAN OF AN INDIAN AIRLINER. THE COMMUNIQUE STATES THAT BOTH SIDES AGREED ON THE NEED FOR ANOTHER ROUND OF TALKS (TIME UNSPECIFIED).

3. SALAL DAM: INDIA HAD WANTED DISCUSSION OF THIS ISSUE AT THE FOREIGN SECRETARY LEVEL TO GET IT OUT OF THE HANDS OF THE TECHNICIANS.

INDIA HAS AGREED TO SUPPLY WITHIN A MONTH OF BEING ASKED ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON DESIGN CRITERIA FOR THE DAM IN ORDER TO ALLY PAKISTANI FEARS. NO CONCRETE HAS YET BEEN POURED FOR THE DAM, SO THERE IS STILL TIME TO TALK BEFORE PAKISTAN FEELS IT IS FACED WITH A FAIT ACCOMPLI.

4. OTHER ISSUES: BHUTTO SENT A LETTER TO MRS. GANDHI WITH AGHA SHAHI. THE COMMUNIQUE RECALLS THE COMMITMENT OF THE TWO PRIME MINISTERS TO THE SIMLA AGREEMENT AND EMPHASIZES THE DETERMINATION OF THE FOREIGN SECRETARIES TO CONTINUE WITH NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS. IT REPORTS AGREEMENT ON "FURTHER STEPS....TO CURB....HOSTILE PROPAGANDA." ALSO, "A USEFUL AND FRANK EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON MATTERS OF BILATERAL CONCERN" OCCURRED ACCORDING TO THE COMMUNIQUE. WE UNDERSTAND THAT PAKISTAN RAISED INDIA'S RELATIONSHIP WITH AFGHANISTAN, THE QUESTION OF A MULTILATERAL DECLARATION

WHICH WOULD BIND FUTURE AS WELL AS THE PRESENT INDIAN GOVERNMENT TO ESCHEW DEVELOPMENT OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS, AND THE INDIAN REACTION TO THE LIFTING OF THE US ARMS EMBARGO. CONFIDENTIAL

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KASHMIR WAS REPORTEDLY NOT RAISED.

9" COMMENT: WE WILL OFFER ADDITIONAL ANALYSIS TOMORROW

AFTER WE HAVE TALKED TO INDIAN OFFICIALS INVOLVED IN THE MEETING. RIGHT NOW IT APPEARS THAT THE SIDE-TALKS ON SALAL AND ON OTHER ISSUES MAY HAVE BEEN MORE SIGNIFICANT

THAN THOSE ON CIVIL AVIATION. THERE WASN'T MUCH AGREEMENT,
BUT THE AIR MAY HAVE BEEN CLEARED SOMEWHAT, AND THE VERY
FACT THEY MET MAY HAVE HAD SOME SIGNIFICANCE. BEGIN XGDS-1:
THE SWISS TELL US THE PAKISTANIS WERE VERY SENSITIVE
ABOUT THE SUBJECT OF KASHMIR SINCE THE AZAD KASHMIRI
ELECTIONS WERE IN PROCESS WHILE THE TALKS WERE GOING ON HERE.
THE SWIS (WHO SAW A GREAT DEAL OF THE PAKISTANIS) ARE
VERY DUBIOUS WHETHER THE MEETINGS ACCOMPLISHED ANYTHING
WHATSOEVER. WHATEVER THE REASON FOR ENDING THE TALKS,
WAS NOT "COMMUNICATIONS," ACCORDING TO THE SWISS.
SCHNEIDER UNQTE INGERSOLL

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